

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EARTHQUAKE  
GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING, Vols. 1 and 2,

Kenji Ishihara (Editor), A. A. Balkema/Rotterdam/Brookfield, 1995.

'Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering', edited by Kenji Ishihara is the culmination of the proceedings of an international conference on this subject. These are two volumes consisting of six topics dealing with a wide range of geotechnical concerns in earthquake engineering. The first topic covers reports on 'Geotechnical hazards in recent earthquake'. Damages from the earthquakes in Latur (India), Friuli (Italy), Erzincan-Eksisu (Turkey), Hokkaido-Nansei-Oki (Japan), Kushiro-Oki (Japan), Great Hanshiu-Awagi (Japan) are, in general, adequately covered. Some of the papers provided essential details (location of site from epicenter, maximum acceleration, etc.) of the earthquakes rather than simply the magnitude, time and date of occurrence. It certainly will help the reader to appreciate the characteristics of a particular earthquake, compared to others in the past, if a standard set of data is presented for each earthquake.

The second topic deals with the 'Evaluation of dynamic soil properties'. This topic captured the bulk of the papers (66) in these proceedings. A wide range of soil types, dynamic and cyclic testing techniques are presented. The majority of the test results comes from laboratory tests using the triaxial device with only a few contributions on field tests.

'Dynamic response of the ground' is the third topic. Here a mixture of papers on dynamic and seismic responses of the ground is evident. Some papers do not belong to this topic. For example, 'Importance of triaxial behaviour in extension on

liquefaction of sands'. Clearly, a better place for this paper is the second topic 'Evaluation of dynamic soil properties'.

The fourth topic encompasses papers on 'Verification by dynamic model tests'. There were very few papers where verification of a design methodology or a constitutive model is described. Rather, the majority of the papers contained centrifuge test results on geotechnical structures or on soils. 'Liquefaction and associated phenomena' are presented under the fifth topic while 'Seismic stability of embankments and slopes' are covered in the last topic.

It is always difficult in conferences to group papers that fit under one or the other of predetermined conference topics. Some overlap and mismatch is to be expected. The editor and the organizers have, however, done an excellent job in the selection and grouping of the papers. These proceedings are a rich source of current material for the researcher and practitioner alike. The organization of the papers, the quality of the papers, the range of topics covered and the timeliness of the proceedings are a major contribution to the understanding of geotechnical problems in earthquake engineering.

MUNIRAM BUDHU  
*Department of Civil Engineering  
and Engineering Mechanics  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721, U.S.A.*